Weather To Know

Hazardous Weather **Outlook**: Local NWS seven day product identifying severe potential in the coming week.

Weather **Watch**: **www.spc.noaa.gov**
A Watch is issued when conditions become favorable for severe weather. *Spotter networks may prepare to activate.*

Weather **Warning**:
A Warning is issued when severe weather is occurring or is imminent based on National Weather Service Doppler radar or spotter reports. *Spotters report weather or damage info to NWS and local officials.*

Receiving Weather Information

NOAA Weather Radio: **weather.gov/nwr**

Internet: **weather.gov/ind**, **weather.gov**
Or your favorite local radio or television stations or favorite weather website.

Texts and pages: Many weather providers offer texts for NWS warnings including XML or RSS feeds:
www.weather.gov/alerts-beta

NWS email alerts:
Weather.gov/emailupdates/index.php

Facebook and Twitter: NWS IND does not have these yet but does monitor tweets: weather.gov/stormreports

NOAAWATCH
ALL-HAZARDS MONITOR

Spotter Reporting

Some spotter groups have special reporting procedures. Contact your group leader or county Emergency Manager.

NWS phone contact (Spotters only):

1-800-499-2133 or 317-856-0359

Espotter web contact:
www.espotter.crh.noaa.gov

Email reports and photos:
W-ind.webmaster@noaa.gov

How to Report:

- **Who** you are
- **What** you observed
- **Where** the event occurred:
  Exact location; county; GPS Lat Lon
- **When** the event occurred
- **Damage** that you witnessed

What to Report:

- Tornadoes
- Funnel clouds
- Rotating wall clouds
- Hail (any size)
- Winds (40 mph or greater)
  Estimated or measured?
- Flooding
- Any weather phenomena causing death or serious injury

Information for Severe Weather Spotters

National Weather Service
Indianapolis, Indiana

SKYWARN

For more information contact:

National Weather Service
6900 West Hanna Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46241
W-ind.webmaster@noaa.gov

weather.gov/ind
weather.gov

Spotter Tips

- **Safety first**: stay out of harm's way
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- **Lightning** is your most obvious threat
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- **Hail**: avoid using "marbles" to describe hail size - use coins; better yet, measure it.

- **Tornadoes** often move to the northeast or southeast. Watch a radar loop to determine storm direction. The best view of the sky is at a location you can look west or northwest toward the approaching storm.

- **Squall lines** are preceded by a **shelf cloud**. Uplifting air in front of a shelf cloud can create finger-like features in the shelf that are funnel-like: beware; funnels rotate.

- **Supercells** produce forward and rear flank shelf clouds with downbursting wind of varying strength.
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- Supercell updrafts, behind the forward flank rain shaft, often develop a wall cloud, the isolated lowering in the rain-free updraft cloud base.
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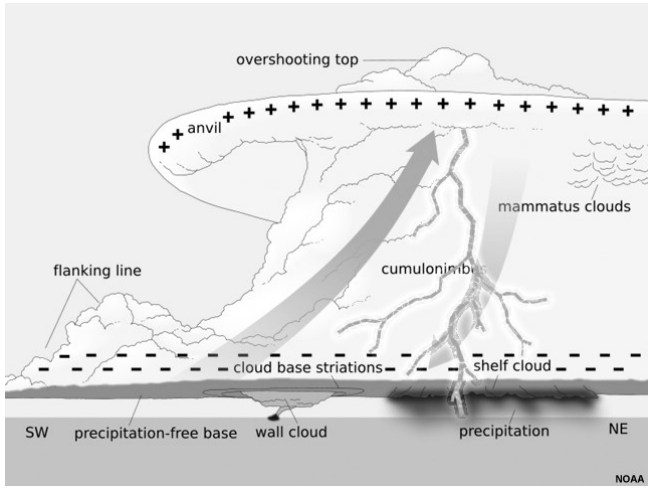
- **Wall Clouds** are typically cylindrical and to be significant, should exhibit organized and sustained rotation about a vertical axis. The wall cloud precedes a funnel and is near the clear slot before tornado forms.

- Report accurately; a **tornado** is a violently rotating column of air in <u>contact</u> with the ground and causes damage. A **funnel cloud** is a violently rotating column of air <u>not reaching</u> the ground and <u>not causing</u> damage. Be observant – sometimes there is no visible connection between the cloud and the ground; if debris is spiraling upward, it's a tornado.

Estimating Wind Speed

Most wind damage from thunderstorms is caused by straight-line winds (also known as "downbursts"). When reporting wind speed, remember to include whether the report was measured or estimated, and describe any damage. If you cannot measure the wind speed, use the table below:

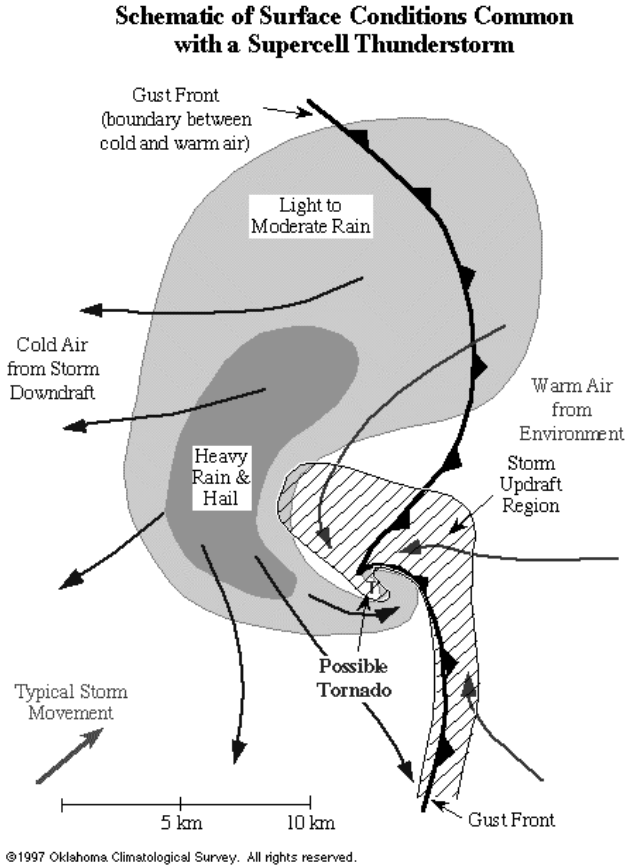
25-30 mph:	large branches move.
30-40 mph:	whole trees move.
40-45 mph:	small branches break; walking impeded.
45-55 mph:	larger branches and weak limbs may break; slight structural damage occurs.
55-65 mph:	moderate structural and tree damage occur.
65 mph + :	heavy to severe structural and tree damage occur.



Supercell Schematic

Supercell Thunderstorms

Supercells are always severe, often with tornadoes, large hail, and intense straight-line winds. The best positions to view from are on the inflow side which is typically to its east or south or perhaps on its rear side as it's moving away. Always ensure you are in a safe place when viewing or have four way escape access if you are mobile.



National Weather Service Indianapolis
http://www.weather.gov/ind

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